

Lt. Governor Skillman Announces Delivery of Donation to Statewide Food Bank Network

Media Contact:

Department of Correction

Java Ahmed

(317) 234-1693

E-mail: jahmed@doc.in.gov

“This is a great collaboration between DNR and DOC to help feed hungry Hoosiers and provide inmates with new skills. These food donations are much needed and will provide valuable meat to our food banks.”

Lt. Governor Becky Skillman



L-R: Commissioner J. David Donahue, Indiana Department of Correction, Gina Brooks, Executive Director of Second Helpings, Rob Carter, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Dan Shadely, DNR Conservation Officer, Sherry Seiwart, Executive Director of Housing and Community Development Authority and Mike Herron, Director of PEN Products.

Today Lt. Governor Becky Skillman announced the delivery of more than 3,000 pounds of donated deer meat to food banks across the state through a program between the Indiana Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR). In an effort to further manage the deer population in southeastern Indiana and provide job training for inmates, hunters had the opportunity to donate antlerless deer to a DOC-identified processor. The processed deer was delivered to Second Helpings in Indianapolis.

The deer were processed by PEN Products, a division of the Indiana Department of Correction, which operates a food plant at the Correctional Industrial Facility in Pendleton. Offenders who work in the food processing plant learn valuable skills that will help them gain employment in the future.

Skillman, who helped form Feeding Indiana's Hungry (FIH), an initiative providing food and meals to Indiana's most needy citizens, said the occasion shows what good can be accomplished when various departments of state government work together.

"This is a great collaboration between DNR and DOC to help feed hungry Hoosiers and provide inmates with new skills," said Lt. Governor Becky Skillman. "These food donations are much needed and will provide valuable meat to our food banks."

DNR Director Rob Carter praised the generosity of the state's hunters and the overall effectiveness of the effort.

"This is a win-win," Carter said. "Hoosier sportsmen and women help manage our deer herd and also donate food to those who need it most. It speaks volumes about the generosity of our hunters and what can happen when they have an opportunity to work with other civic-minded individuals and organizations."

Commissioner J. David Donahue noted the part the donation played in both educating offenders and giving them a feeling of accomplishment as they prepare to return to the work force upon release.

"Offender workers trained in meat processing learn valuable skills that will help them when they return to the community," said Donahue. "Processing the donated deer and knowing that the ground venison will go to feed the hungry has given the offenders a deep sense of pride."

Second Helpings is a food rescue, job training and hunger relief organization serving greater Indianapolis that safely uses rescued food to train and educate adults in the culinary field and to distribute nutritious meals to agencies serving the disadvantaged.

"Oftentimes some of our most vulnerable populations are without shelter and also without food. We consider Second Helpings a great friend of ours and have supported their efforts through our Neighborhood Assistance Program," said Sherry Seiwert, Executive Director for Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority. "It gives me great pleasure to stand beside these agencies and watch how they will again impact Hoosier lives."

Second Helpings is the charity organization that Gleaners Food Bank recommended to DNR.

Media Contact:

Angela Coats,
Press Secretary

Office of Lt. Governor Becky Skillman
Phone: 317.232.4789

Media Contact:

Marty Benson,
Senior Communications Specialist
DNR
Phone: 317.233-3853

Media Contact:

Amber Seidler,
Media Specialist
IHCDA
Phone: 317.233-5373

About the Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.